



FAQs for Local Governments Affected by Tornadoes & Severe Storms

What does the state disaster declaration mean for local governments?

Governor Quinn has declared several counties state disaster areas. This ensures state resources are available to help local officials respond to and recover from the disaster. State assistance includes equipment and personnel to support public safety activities, debris removal and more. If you need assistance from the state, please submit your request through your municipal or county emergency management agency.

The declaration also is necessary for the state to seek federal assistance for people, businesses and local governments.

What is federal Public Assistance?

Public Assistance (PA) is federal assistance that may provide reimbursement to governmental bodies for up to 75 percent of eligible disaster-related expenses.

How can we qualify for federal Public Assistance?

There are two thresholds that must be met for federal Public Assistance:

- First, the total statewide eligible disaster-related expenses (expenses from all impacted counties and all state agency expenses) must exceed \$17.8 million.
- Second, a county's eligible disaster-related expenses must meet a threshold determined by its population multiplied by \$3.50.

Both thresholds must be met in order for a county to receive federal Public Assistance.

Do we include home and business damage costs in our county threshold?

No. Federal assistance for people and businesses affected by the disaster is a separate program known as Individual Assistance.

What is the state doing to get Public Assistance for local governments?

Damage assessment teams from IEMA and FEMA will schedule times to meet with officials from disaster-impacted local government bodies to document eligible disaster-related expenses. The information will be used to determine if the state meets its threshold AND if individual counties meet their thresholds.

What should we do to be prepared for the Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA)?

You will need to assist with two types of PDAs:

Individual Assistance (for people and businesses):

- Collect damage information from affected citizens and provide it to your local emergency management agency.
- Participate in PDAs with personnel from IEMA, FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to document damage to homes and businesses.

Public Assistance PDAs:

- Throughout the response and recovery process, maintain documentation of all disaster-related expenses, such as overtime, debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair and replacement of damaged public property.
- Compile all expenses documentation so it is readily available for your PDA meeting.

For more information, visit www.Ready.Illinois.gov or contact your local emergency management agency.